

School & Library Network Advisory Board Meeting Minutes January 7, 1998

Members Present: Bill Black, Barry Crommett, Phil Lindley, Barry McCrum, Ray Poulin, Joanne Steneck, Reginald Palmer

Members Absent: Stephen Gilbert, Gary Nichols

1. Approval of Minutes from October 15, 1997 Meeting and December 16, 1997 Teleconference Meeting. Both Minutes were approved.
2. Training. Joanne Steneck reported that the Commission issued an order on December 23, 1997 approving the Board's recommendation that the second year of training run from January 1, 1998 through December 31, 1998. This is with the understanding that the majority of the training will be completed by September 1998.
3. Report on Applications/Installations. Art Henry reported that a few applications continue to be received and processed. As of December 31, 1997, 1106 schools and libraries are connected to the Network. Barry Crommett will be taking Tom Romano's place as Bell Atlantic's representative to the School and Library Network Advisory Board. Janet Grard has left the project to accept a position with the Secretary of State. Elaine Benedetti and Art Henry continue to be available to answer questions and process applications. Reggie Palmer reported from the independent telephone companies' perspective that all connections appear to be functioning well.

Only 670 of the sites have received generic e-mail addresses through CAPs. A recent test resulted in 20-30% of these "kicking back." Bell Atlantic will be contacting these sites to determine problems. Ray Poulin reported that he informed all school superintendents that they need to have functional e-mail addresses by July 1998 because distribution of forms, etc. will be done electronically. The superintendents are supportive of this process. Ray believes the Superintendents' support will translate into ensuring that each school has a functional e-mail address. Before the next meeting, Art will work with Ray and Gary Nichols on all schools and libraries having an e-mail address. After the majority of sites have addresses, a list will be posted on the University's MSLN web site and will be publicly available. The Board agreed with Ray's request that the Superintendents' addresses be included on the list.

4. Preliminary Survey Results. The response rate to the survey sent to all connected sites was 49%. The response rate from libraries was particularly high at 70%. 67% of libraries and 59% of schools responding reported that they had no connection to the internet prior to the establishment of the School and Library Network. 82.3% reported they were satisfied with their project connection and support. Art Henry will draft a summary of the results for distribution by February 1, 1998.
5. Status of E-Rate. Linda Lord reported the FCC's web site for RFPs is still scheduled to be available in the next week. The State will submit a proposal for POTS (plain telephone service) and ATM on behalf of all schools and libraries in the State. DOE and the State Library are running seminars to help individual schools and libraries submit applications.
6. Report of Status of Network from CAPs. Jeff Letourneau reported that Network capacity remains adequate and CAPs continues to regularly monitor usage.
7. Other. Art Henry reported that the private school that was no longer eligible to participate in the project was not interested in purchasing for \$1,300 the computer it purchased with a grant. It will be returned to Bell Atlantic and Art will look for opportunities for another use. One suggestion is to offer it for sale at \$1,300 to the next site that is eligible for a computer grant.

Joanne Steneck asked for any comments on the annual report to the Legislature by January 14, 1998. The next Advisory Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 18, 1998.